Sick Complaints

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF WANGFORD.

Medical Officer's Report

FOR THE YEAR

1895.

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Rural District Council

OF WANGFORD.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

BUNGAY DISTRICT.

The Bungay District comprises an area of 17,291 acres, with a population of 5,801, according to the census of 1891.

140 Births were registered in 1895, and 85 Deaths, in the following Parishes :—

Bungay St. Mary	St. James Southelmham
Bungay Holy Trinity	St. Cross Southelmham
Flixton	All Saints Southelmham
Mettingham	St. Margaret Southelmham
St. Lawrence Ilketshall	St. Peter Southelmham
St. Margaret Ilketshall	St. Michael Southelmham
Homersfield	St. Nicholas Southelmham

Average Death Rate per 1000 of the population 14·65.

In Bungay St. Mary there were 22 Deaths registered; average per 1000 of the population being 12·52.

In Bungay Holy Ttinity there were 30 Deaths registered, with an average of 16·65 per 1000 of the population.

In the parishes there were 33 Deaths registered, with an average of 14·71 per 1000 of the population.

Of these 85 Deaths, 4 were from the Zymotic Class of Diseases, viz :—

1 from Diarrhœa, occuring in Flixton
1 from Diphtheria, „ St. Michael
2 from Whooping Cough occuring in St. Margaret and Mettingham.

Twenty-six persons died under 5 years of age.

Age.	*Sex.*	*Cause of Death.*	*Month.*
3 years	F	Diarrhœa	January
3 days	F	Premature Birth	January
2 years	M	Bronchitis	January
3 months	M	Bronchitis	February
2 months	M	Malnutrition	February
5 months	M	Debility from Birth	February
6 days	M	Pulmonary Atelectasis	February
8 months	F	Bronchitis	February
1 day	M	Premature Birth	March
7 months	M	Whooping Cough	March
4 days	M	Inanition	March
5 days	M	Inanition	March
9 months	F	Dentition	March
1 month	M	Malnutrition	March
18 days	F	Premature Birth	March
3 months	M	Tabes Mesenterica	April
2 years	M	Sarcoma of Kidney	April
15 months	M	Meningitis	May

Age.	*Sex.*	*Cause of Death.*	*Month.*
5 minutes	M	Protracted Birth	May
2 years	F	Whooping Cough	June
1 month	M	Marasmus	June
3 years	M	Drowned	June
10 months	F	Dentition	July
5 weeks	M	Stomatitis	August
7 days	M	Premature Birth	November
3 days	M	Inanition	October

Average Death Rate of Children under 5 years per 1000 of the population—4·48.

The Zymotic Death Rate per 1000 of the population—0·68.

I am sorry to have to chronicle so many Deaths occurring in children under 5 years of age; and also to note that out of these 26 deaths no less than 19 are Male children. Premature Birth, and Debility at Birth, with its often concomitant Inanition, accounts for 14 of these. I am of opinion, that if the poorer classes were better informed as to the proper clothing and feeding of Infants, we should be able to prevent a considerable amount of this infantile mortality.

The number of Births and Deaths as compared with the ten previous years :—

in 1895	...	140	Births and	85	Deaths
1894	...	146	„	71	„
1893	...	169	„	64	„
1892	...	154	„	108	„
1891	...	185	„	100	„
1890	...	153	„	79	„
1889	...	152	„	79	„
1888	...	177	„	73	„

1887	...	158	Births and	111	Deaths
1886	...	185	„	95	„
1885	...	183	„	121	„

And of the Zymotic Class of Diseases :—

in 1895	...	4	Deaths
1894	...	1	Death
1893	...	5	Deaths
1892	...	1	Death
1891	...	1	„
1890	...	1	„
1889	...	3	Deaths
1888	..	8	„
1887	...	13	„
1886	..	11	„
1885	...	10	„

And the Death Rate—

in 1895	...	...	14·65
1894	...	...	12·22
1893	...	...	10·68
1892	...	...	18·61
1891	...	...	17·08
1890	...	...	13·49
1889	...	...	13·67
1888	...	...	12·48
1887	...	...	18·96
1886	...	...	16·23
1885	...	...	20·67

The average Death Rate per 1000 of the population for the last ten years is 14·80.

The town of Bungay consists of two parishes, St. Mary and Holy Trinity ; the area of St. Mary is 855 acres, and that of Holy Trinity, 1530 acres.

The population of St. Mary is 1757, and of Holy Trinity 1801 ; making a total of 3558.

During the past year 52 Deaths were registered, and 85 Births.

Average Death Rate per 1000 of the population is 14·61.

The number of Births and Deaths as compared with the ten previous years—

in 1895	...	85	Births and	52	Deaths
1894	...	86	„	42	„
1893	...	102	„	38	„
1892	...	96	„	82	„
1891	...	109	„	69	„
1890	...	92	„	60	„
1889	...	97	„	60	„
1888	...	124	„	53	„
1887	...	96	„	74	„
1886	...	115	„	59	„
1885	...	113	„	93	„

And the Death Rate—

in 1895	...	...	14·61
1894	...	...	11·80
1893	...	...	10·67
1892	...	...	23·07
1891	...	...	19·27
1890	...	...	15·08
1889	...	...	16·76
1888	...	...	14·80
1887	...	...	20·67
1886	...	...	16·48
1885	...	...	25·98

And the average Death Rate per 1000 of the population during the last ten years—16·32

Of the Zymotic Class of Diseases, no death was registered.

And as compared with the ten previous years—

in 1895	...	...	0	Death
1894	...	...	1	,,
1893	...	...	4	Deaths
1892	...	...	0	Death
1891	...	...	1	,,
1890	...	...	1	,,
1889	...	...	1	,,
1888	...	...	7	,,
1887	...	...	7	,,
1886	...	...	5	,,
1885	...	...	8	,,

In presenting you this report, I regret to state the death rate is 2·43 higher than in the year 1894: but this increase is considerably due to the high mortality occurring amongst infants.

During the year, I have had 27 cases reported to me under the Infectious Diseases' Act (Notification). 19 were cases of Scarlet Fever; one occurred in Bungay, which I traced as coming from London; 16 occurred in the parish of St. Lawrence, and one in St. Margaret Ilketshall, and the other in St. Margaret Southelmham. Of these I was unable to trace their exact source; but from the knowledge I obtained I thought the

contagion was brought from Halesworth. By taking prompt action and closing the Schools, getting those suffering from the disease removed to the Fever Wards at Shipmeadow, having the houses thoroughly fumigated and disinfected, we were able to prevent what at one time threatened to be a severe epidemic. I am glad to say we had not any death due to Scarlet Fever.

One case of Diphtheria was reported from St. Michael, which unfortunately terminated fatally a few days after her confinement. In this case I was totally unable to find any specific cause.

Three cases of Typhoid Fever were reported, all being traced as coming from London.

The other four notified cases were of Erysipelas.

I must again draw your attention to the fact that we are without any Isolation Hospital, and I can only attribute our good fortune in thus preventing a serious epidemic of Scarlet Fever, to the willingness of the parents in the St. Lawrence parish, in acquiescing to our wishes in allowing their children to be removed to Shipmeadow.

During the past year I have found it necessary to advise the closing of the following schools :— St. James, from January 7th to the 31st, owing to the prevalence of Whooping Cough ; and the St. Lawrence School from August 10th to the 18th of October, owing to the epidemic of Scarlet Fever.

In June I visited and reported to you upon the premises of Ibroke Warne in St. Margaret Ilketshall, horse slaughterer. After repeated interviews he has now carried out your recommendations, and the premises are now in a much more clean and satisfactory condition ; and if the business, which must always be more or less objecticnable, is carried on with due regard to cleanliness, I think the former nuisances will not recur.

During the year the whole district, including the various parishes, has been thoroughly and systematically inspected by myself, besides being constantly supervised by the Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Stammers and Mr. Rees, and the sanitary condition found satisfactory. The journals contain the records of the various notices which have been served upon the owners and occupiers for the removal of several nuisances, and in all cases I am glad to say these injunctions have been carried out without the necessity of obtaining a magistrate's order.

During the months of February, March, and April we experienced very cold weather, and during these three months no less than 36 Deaths were registered, two being caused by Influenza. I am pleased to state that in our district, there was a very appreciable diminution in the number of cases of Influenza.

The Water Supply of our parishes has engaged a great deal of our attention. In March, I inspected, in company with Mr. Stammers, the water supply of St. James, particularly in reference to certain recommendations made by the Parish Council, and on March 6th I reported to you my opinion favourable to these recommendations. The necessary orders were served upon the owners, and now I am pleased to say the work has been concluded in a most satisfactory manner, though in one instance it was found necessary to make an entirely new pond, as the pond which was ordered to be enlarged, etc., was situated upon property which did not belong to the owners of the cottages, whose tenants only used the water upon permission of the landowner. However, the cottage owner has now made for them a most satisfactory supply.

In the Flixton and Homersfield districts, several of the ponds have been cleaned out, and the water supply there is good.

In St. Margaret Ilketshall, orders have also been served upon owners, to make a better supply. These, to a certain extent, have been carried out, but as yet not satisfactorily; but I hope soon to be able to report that they have.

The Supply in St. Michael and St. Lawrence is engaging our attention, and in the latter parish I have no doubt but that the Supply would have been made satisfactory, had not the property been

sold and re-sold two or three times during the last few months. However, on the whole, I consider satisfactory progress has been made during the year, and I hope that in my report next January, I shall be able to speak more favourably.

BECCLES DISTRICT.

The Beccles District comprises an area of 16,289 acres, and contains a population of 2741, according to the census of 1891.

During the past year there have been 82 Births registered, and 29 Deaths in the following parishes, and 12 Deaths in the Shipmeadow Workhouse, making in all 41—

Barsham	Shadingfield
Ellough	Ringsfield
North Cove	St. Andrew
Weston	Redisham
Sotterley	Willingham
Shipmeadow	Worlingham

Average Death Rate per 1000 of the population—10·58 : or, including the Deaths in the Workhouse, 14·96.

Again I have to report that there has not been a single death from any of the Zymotic Class of Diseases.

The number of Deaths under 5 years of age has been 8, from the following causes :—

Age.	*Sex.*	*Cause of Death.*	*Month.*
4 months ...	M	Convulsions	February
2 „ ...	F	Congenital Debility	April
7 „ ...	F	Accidental Suffocation	April
4 years ...	F	Cancer of Eye	May
9 days ...	M	Premature Birth	June
2 months ...	M	Scrofula	July
1 day ...	M	Premature Birth	October
10 months ...	M	Meningitis	November

7 died under 1 year of age
1 died over 1 year and under 5 years of age
3 „ 5 years „ 15 „
1 „ 15 „ „ 25 „
6 „ 25 „ „ 65 „
11 „ 65 „ „ 95 „

There were 7 deaths of persons over 70 years of age. As compared with the ten previous years these were—

in 1895	...	82	Births and	29	Deaths
1894	...	72	„	27	„
1893	...	88	„	37	„
1892	...	76	„	51	„
1891	...	75	„	40	„
1890	...	81	„	34	„
1889	...	85	„	41	„
1888	...	81	„	60	„
1887	...	83	„	49	„
1886	...	88	„	47	„
1885	...	100	„	57	„

And the average Death Rate—

in 1895	...	10·58	or, including	Workhouse	14·96.
1894	...	9·85	,,	,,	11·33
1893	...	13·49	,,	,,	19.33
1892	...	12·03	,,	,,	18·60
1891	...	13·88			
1890	...	11·80			
1889	...	14·23			
1888	...	20·83			
1887	..	20·48			
1886	...	16·31			
1885	...	19·17			

And of the Zymotic Class of Diseases—

1895	...	...	0	Death
1894	...	...	0	,,
1893	...	...	1	,,
1892	...	...	3	Deaths
1891	...	...	3	,,
1890	...	...	4	,,
1889	...	...	2	,,
1888	...	...	2	,,
1887	...	...	7	,,
1886	...	...	2	,,
1885	...	...	5	,,

During the past year I have had 8 cases of Infectious Diseases (Notification) reported to me; four were cases of Scarlet Fever, two occurring in Redisham, one in North Cove, and one in Barsham; one case of Typhoid Fever in Worlingham; one case of Diphtheria in North Cove; one case of Membraneous Croup in Sotterley; one case of Facial Erysipelas in Weston. These were all

isolated cases; those of Scarlet Fever occurring in the months of August, September and December. Fortunately we had not any deaths, and by the use of disinfectants and fumigations, we were enabled to prevent the spreading.

During the past year this district has been systematically inspected by myself, as well as by the Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Rees, and the Sanitary condition has been found to be in a very satisfactory state.

Though the Death Rate is a little higher this year than last, yet it compares very favourably with the preceding years, and on the whole I consider the health of the district has been very good during the year.

WORKHOUSE.

In the Workhouse there were 4 Births and 12 Deaths, all occurring in persons between the ages of 65 and 92 years.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

F. HARRISON TETLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

BUNGAY,

January, 1896.